

DYNAMITE BLAST KILLS MANY IN A ST. LOUIS SUBURB

Three Women Known to Be Dead and More Believed to Have Lost Lives in Great Explosion in Maplewood.

THIRTY HOUSES ARE WRECKED

Great Number Injured and Seven of Them Suffer Seriously, It Is Reported.

PARTIES EXPLORING THE RUINS

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Feb. 28.—Three persons are known to have been killed and many injured, seven of them seriously, when five cases of dynamite stored at Maplewood for sewer construction work, exploded late this afternoon.

Approximately thirty houses were demolished by the explosion and many other houses were damaged. Early tonight, searching parties were exploring the ruins for more bodies which it was feared had been buried in the wreckage.

The identified dead are: MRS. BESSIE BARNETT of Greenfield, Ill. MISS EFFIE BARNETT, maid at the home of A. L. Chenery, which was demolished. MRS. MAGGIE EVANS.

First reports were that the explosion had resulted in an appalling loss of life and that 100 had been injured. All available ambulances and patrol wagons in St. Louis and four fire companies were rushed to Maplewood.

At an early hour tonight the cause of the explosion was not known. A hole sixty feet in diameter and fifteen feet deep, was torn in the ground by the blast, which was heard several miles away.

Stock Market Sells Off Several Points on Rumors of War

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—Reports of fresh complications in the international situation and the further success of the Teutonic forces in France caused severe declines in the stock market today. Losses in standard issues ranged from 1/2 to 3/4 points, war issues lost 1/2 to 1 point and some of the more obscure stocks were lower by 1/2 to 1 1/2 points.

Great Britain Will Permit Shipment of Dyes to America

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Great Britain will permit the shipment of two cargoes of dyestuffs, valued at \$5,000,000, from Rotterdam to the United States, Ambassador Page at London has advised the State department, and officials here are hopeful that Germany will make an exception to its embargo by granting permission for their exportation.

NORTHWESTERN SUEW FOR THIRTY THOUSAND

FAIRFAX, S. D., Feb. 28.—(Special.)—The Northwestern Suedw has been made defendant in a suit for \$30,000 damages by Mrs. Michael Speidel, whose husband was killed by a passenger train one mile south of Fairfax last March. M. E. Parrish of this city, and M. B. Harrington of O'Neill, Neb., are the plaintiff's attorneys. The case will be tried at Butte, Neb., next month.

The Weather

Forecast till 7 p. m. Tuesday: For Omaha, Council Bluffs and Vicinity—Unsettled, with probably snow or rain; warmer.

Temperatures at Omaha Yesterday. Hours: 6 a. m., 7 a. m., 8 a. m., 9 a. m., 10 a. m., 11 a. m., 12 m., 1 p. m., 2 p. m., 3 p. m., 4 p. m., 5 p. m., 6 p. m., 7 p. m., 8 p. m.

CROWDS COME IN FOR MARKET WEEK

Retailers from All Over Nebraska Begin to Arrive for Merchants' Market Week.

EXPECT RECORD ATTENDANCE

Retailers from all parts of Nebraska began to arrive in Omaha Monday for Merchants' Market week. The largest crowds are expected to arrive Tuesday, and by Wednesday the number of out-of-town retailers in the city is expected to reach the maximum.

The snow during the night did not hurt Merchants' Market week at all in the opinion of the local committee in charge of arrangements.

"If anything it will help it," said Chairman Joe Kelly, "for this reason: This snow is the finest thing in the world for the winter wheat, and that is one of the important items the retailers must regard in deciding how heavy his stocks of goods for the year shall be."

Telegrams and letters are pouring into the wholesale houses from retailers who are asking acquaintances in the Omaha firms to favor them by reserving rooms for them at the hotels. They expect the crowds to be so large they are anxious to get their reservations before they come.

Plan Proves Popular

All of the local committee members look for a larger crowd this week than they have had at any time in the past. The Merchants' Market Week is a new feature in Omaha, this being the fifth one held. Each succeeding market week has brought larger crowds than the last. As the merchants all over Omaha's territory are favorably impressed with the plan of setting aside a special week for buying in Omaha, when the wholesalers and manufacturers make special effort to have a large force at work to show goods, and when entertainment features for the evenings can be planned collectively by the jobbers and manufacturers of Omaha.

This evening there will be a theater party at the Orpheum. Wednesday evening is to be prize night, when a reception will be held at the Commercial club and prizes will be given away to the visitors, and Thursday evening there is to be a big banquet and dance at the Fontenelle hotel.

"Bob" Meldrum, Who Jumped His Bond, is Probably in Mexico

RAWLINS, Wyo., Feb. 28.—(Special.)—That "Bob" Meldrum, the "gunman" ex-marshal of Telluride, Colo., and Baggs, Wyo., who failed to appear here on February 14 for his third trial for the murder of "Chick" Bowen at Baggs, probably is safe in Mexico and beyond the reach of his bondsmen, is indicated by a letter received by Charles Kelley of this place from C. E. Williams of Oklahoma City, Okl. This letter says: "This afternoon I ran across Meldrum and had a pleasant visit with him. I am glad to know that he was cleared. He says that he is going to Mexico to work for a big cattle company."

Hospital Ship is Sunk by Austrian Mine Off Albania

LONDON, Feb. 28.—The sinking of the hospital ship Marchese near San Giovanni di Medua, Albania, reported in a dispatch from Rome to the Exchange Telegraph company. The vessel is said to have struck an Austrian mine. It is reported there were numerous victims.

Clem Morrison Will Recover

EVANSTON, Wyo., Feb. 28.—(Special.)—Clem Morrison, who was shot through the body by Cal Hickle in a barroom duel, in which Hickle was killed, is making a strong fight for life, and at the expiration of the first week since he was wounded his physician stated that he had a strong chance to recover.

Barefoot and Ragged Women Ask Greek Parliament for Food

ATHENS, Feb. 28.—(Via Paris, Feb. 27.)—Delayed in transmission.—Barefoot and ragged women in large numbers, many with babies in arms, proceeded from the quarters of the working classes yesterday to Parliament, stopped inquiring deputies and pleaded with them that the chamber relieve the distressed caused by mobilization of the men and non-payment of allowances to their families. There was no disorder. Several deputies, moved by the pitiful demonstration, addressed the women, promising relief. Little has been done by Parliament thus far in the present session. The members have been engaged principally in recriminations, the disputes giving

HUNDRED AND FIFTY LOST ON LINER SUNK OFF DOVER HARBOR

Two Hundred and Sixty Saved from Ship Maloja, Which Was Hit by a Mine Just Outside Port.

RESCUE SHIP WHICH WAS LOST Oil Tanker, Which Goes to Aid Drowning Passengers Hits Another Mine.

BODIES ARE WASHED ASHORE

DOVER, Feb. 28.—It is feared the death list from the sinking of the Peninsular and Oriental liner Maloja will be more than 150. Bodies continue to be washed ashore and fifty persons have thus far been accounted for. Up to mid-afternoon the number of known survivors was 260, of whom over seventy are passengers. Line officials hope it will be found that others have been picked up and landed on neighboring coasts. The company's statement issued this afternoon regarding the number aboard the ship showed that of 119 passengers, nineteen were children.

LONDON, Feb. 28.—Of the total complement of 411 passengers and crew on the Peninsular & Oriental line steamship Maloja, which struck a mine and sank within half an hour two miles off Dover harbor, only 260 are known to have been saved. Of the total of 119 passengers, sixty-four names of persons saved have been received at the steamship company's offices. It was stated there that it is hoped that more names of persons saved will be received.

The bodies of three more lascars of the crew of the Maloja have been washed ashore, making the total of bodies recovered forty-seven. Many relatives are arriving at Dover for the purpose of endeavoring to identify the bodies.

Among those rescued yesterday was a baby, warmly clad, which was found floating on its back. The child was discovered by a patrol boat and was taken into the engine room. After being warmed it smiled at its rescuers and seemed none the worse for the immersion.

The British press is almost unanimous in assuming that the Maloja and the other vessels sunk by mines during the week-end were victims of a fresh sowing of German mines. There is much speculation as to how these mines could have been laid. The theory most frequently advanced is that a certain class of neutral shipping was employed.

The Pall Mall Gazette suggests that such operations may drive England to still more stringent supervision of neutral shipping than has yet been exercised by the admiralty.

Two Ships Sank Quickly. DOVER, Feb. 27.—The steamship Maloja, a 12,447-ton vessel belonging to the Peninsular and Oriental line, struck a mine and sank within a half hour, two miles off Dover today.

The Maloja left Tilbury only yesterday for Bombay with mails, 119 passengers of all classes aboard and a crew numbering about 200, most of them women. Other passengers were to join the ship at Marseilles.

Jean Crones Was at Buffalo When Gov. Dunne Spoke

BUFFALO, N. Y., Jan. Crones, wanted in connection with the poisoning of soup at the dinner given Archbishop Mundelein in Chicago was in this city in February 15, when Governor Dunne of Illinois was the guest of honor at the Annunciation club dinner, according to the local police. Crones endeavored to speak with Governor Dunne while the latter was attending a private dinner at a hotel, according to the statement, but was prevented from doing so by detectives. He said he came on the same train with the governor, and showed a picture taken at the New York Central railroad station, in which he stood close to the governor. The identification was made today upon receipt of Crones' picture from Chicago.

Cummins Opens Office at Pierre

DES MOINES, Ia., Feb. 28.—A. W. Ewart, state treasurer of South Dakota, today opened Cummins campaign headquarters at Pierre, S. D., according to reports received by local managers of the campaign of Senator Cummins, who is seeking the republican presidential nomination. Similar headquarters were opened today at Helena, Mont., by O. M. Harvey of Livingston.

GRINNELL STUDENTS WILL ENDOW CHINA MISSION

GRINNELL, Ia., Feb. 28.—(Special.)—A. B. DeHaan, Iowa college, '94, is to be in Grinnell March 6 to head a movement for raising of \$100,000 or more for the endowment of the Grinnell-China missionary movement. It is planned also to raise a fund of some \$10,000 to build four residences at prominent centers of the Grinnell-China territory for workers and their families. It is hoped that eleven young men may be brought together who will pledge themselves as a band for this work in China as the Iowa band came into this state, founding churches and Iowa college. Much earnestness is displayed here in both the college and the city in this large project.

GENERAL DE CURIERS DE CASTLENAU—French chief-of-staff, who has been directing the defense of Verdun against the gigantic attack launched by the Germans.



GEN. DE CASTLENAU

Robbers Get Large Haul in New York in Money Pouches

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—It became known here today that a daring attempt to steal a sum estimated at \$1,000,000, consigned to New York banks, had been made on Saturday morning by burglars who broke into a United States mail van while it was on a ferry, in transit from the Jersey Central railroad.

The postoffice inspectors who have been detailed on the case admitted today that the thieves had secured several packages other than those consigned to the banks, but they professed ignorance as to the extent of the booty.

It was said that four money pouches were stolen and, according to reports from other sources, one of them contained \$300,000. Information as to the exact amounts involved was refused by the postoffice inspectors. One of the pouches came from Washington and is believed to have contained a large amount of currency from the Treasury department.

Iowa Asks Bids for Year's Supplies for Institutions

DES MOINES, Ia., Feb. 28.—Proposals are being asked by Harry Shropshire, purchasing agent for Iowa institutions, for the control of the State Board of Control, for supplies for the next six months. Bids will be received on merchandise ranging from dress goods to meats and sugar.

Russians on Way to Tigris by Boat from Dalny Port

PEKING, China, Feb. 28.—Reuter's correspondent at Harbin, Manchuria, reports that a division of Russian troops is on the way to the Manchurian port of Dalny to embark there on Japanese steamships for Mesopotamia.

Topeka Man Who Was on Maloja is Among the Saved

TOPEKA, Kan., Feb. 28.—Ralph Foster, son of Rev. Festus Foster of Topeka, a passenger aboard the steamship Maloja, which struck a mine and sank off Dover yesterday, cables his parents today he had been rescued and unhurt.

Senate Has Ratified Treaty with Haiti

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—The senate late today unanimously ratified the treaty with Haiti under which the United States assumes a protectorate over the turbulent island republic, taking over control of its finances and police, guaranteeing its territorial integrity and undertaking to develop its resources. The treaty already has been approved by the Haitian congress and its terms virtually are in operation under the eye of a strong American marine expedition.

Traveler Tells of Ovens Filled With Roasted Babies in Turkey

CHICAGO, Feb. 28.—Bake ovens filled with bodies of roasted babies by the Turks, they had seen bake ovens filled with the bodies of babies and I have every reason to believe that they are true.

FRENCH HOLDING PRUSSAINS ALL ALONG THE LINE

Paris Reports German Attacks Repulsed About Verdun and Also in the Region of the Woivre.

TEUTONS LOSE SMALL REDOUBT

Hand-to-Hand Encounters in Neighborhood of Fort Douaumont Go Against Invaders.

SHELLING ON BELGIAN FRONT

PARIS, Feb. 28.—Attacks by the Germans to the north of Verdun, where the battle for the fortress is still raging fiercely, were driven back by the French fire and counter attacks, according to the official communication issued by the war office tonight.

Hand-to-hand encounters occurred to the west of Fort Douaumont, and the Germans were driven from a small redoubt which they had taken. German attacks on Fresnes in the Woivre, the communication adds, completely failed.

Text of Report

"In the Argonne our heavy batteries and field guns shelled the roads of access to the enemy, particularly in the region of the Chiepy wood. This morning at Hill 285 we exploded a mine, the crater of which we occupied.

"In the region to the north of Verdun artillery activity on both sides is still very spirited, except in the sector to the west of the Meuse where an abatement of the enemy bombardment is reported. "The Germans during the course of the day attempted several partial attacks which were driven back by our fire and counter attacks. To the west of Fort Douaumont, particularly, our troops have engaged in hand-to-hand encounters with the adversary, who was ejected from a small redoubt where he had succeeded in installing himself.

Woivre Attacks Fail

"In the Woivre two attacks against Fresnes completely failed. "In Lorraine our artillery has displayed marked activity in the sectors of Reillon, Conzevre and Badonviller.

Power Site Bill is Amended in Senate During Long Debate

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Debate on the Shields bill to provide for water power grants on navigable streams to private interests was resumed in the senate today, with opponents of the measure preparing to renew with more vigor than ever their fight against it.

The cry of "lobby" in connection with the Shields bill already has been raised by Senator Norris of Nebraska, who charges that it is the strongest seen in the capitol in years and that it is composed of representatives of the "water power trust," which has its headquarters in Wall street.

Senator Shields in debate on the water power bill criticized Clifford Pinchot, whom he described as a "discharged subordinate official of the Agricultural department seeking to continue himself in the limelight."

Senator Norris defended Mr. Pinchot, as he had read to the senate Mr. Pinchot's recent letter to President Wilson saying passage of the Shields bill would be a "public misfortune."

Dispute over means of determining compensation to the government for public land occupied by the construction of dams across navigable streams was again taken up in the senate today, when an amendment, Senator Cummings providing that the value of public land occupied by power plants be fixed by the secretary of war.

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HENRY JAMES DIES A BRITISH SUBJECT

Famous Novelist Meets Death Not Long After He Renounces American Citizenship.

WRITINGS MORE READ ABROAD

LONDON, Feb. 28.—Henry James, novelist, died today.

Dies a Briton

Henry James was born an American, but took the oath of allegiance to the crown, explaining that he had lived and worked in England for forty years and had developed such an attachment for the country and sympathy with its people that he desired to throw his moral weight and personal allegiance into the British cause in the European war.

The distinguished novelist, critic and playwright was born in New York, April 3, 1843. His father, Henry James, Sr., was noted as a writer on ethics and religion; and his younger brother, William, was later to become distinguished as a psychologist. The family was possessed of an ample fortune, the foundation of which was laid by the novelist's grandfather, of Scottish-Irish descent, who migrated from Ulster soon after the revolutionary war and became a successful merchant at Albany, N. Y.

Not So Popular Here

Mr. James' work was never as popular in America as it was in England, but he had many admirers in his native country and even his critics ranked him as one of the most masterful writers of the past generation. His writings were of the analytical and metaphysical school of novelists and the full understanding of his work was a matter of endless controversy. To understand Henry James, was, in the popular view, the gift of only a privileged few.

The fact that Mr. James was always independent of the need of catering to what the public wanted, since his fortune was sufficient, enabled him to adhere religiously to his own principles of romance regardless of how popular they were.

Felix Diaz is Off for Mexico to Put on New Revolution

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Confirmation of reports that General Felix Diaz had left the United States for Mexico to start a new revolution, was received today at the Department of Justice from several different quarters.

Chief Biolaak of the bureau of investigation said today Diaz had been under watch in New Orleans for three weeks, but disappeared about a week ago and had not been traced since.

Two reports as to how Diaz left the United States were current. According to one he went by train to Los Angeles and then into Mexico. According to the other he sailed from New Orleans as a passenger on a steamer that left there several days ago. The department, although uncertain which is correct, believes Diaz went practically alone and made no effort to take an armed expedition with him.

Charges of Graft Made in Chicago

CHICAGO, Feb. 28.—A new angle to the city hall "split salary case" was forecast today by Seymour Steedman, attorney for Mrs. Page Waller Eaton, who declares his client was not the only one who had been forced to split her salary with the "higher ups." He said he would place on the stand at the civil service commission's investigation another woman who would testify to having been forced to divide her salary with her superiors. He said she would tell of thousands of dollars being passed to "higher ups" and lay bare a story of graft that would make the Eaton-Rowe controversy seem insignificant.

Investigation of Mrs. Eaton's charge that she was forced by her superior, Mrs. Louise Osborne Rowe, head of the public welfare department, to give a third of her salary for the support of a relative of Mayor Thompson was continued by the civil service commission today with Mrs. Rowe on the stand. It was expected Mayor Thompson would follow Mrs. Rowe.

Kaiser Sends Sharp Protest to Portugal

BERLIN, Feb. 28.—(By Wireless to Bayville.)—Germany had addressed a sharp note to Portugal in protest against seizure of German merchant vessels by the Portuguese authorities. This move is characterized as a violation of Germany's treaty rights, and the hope is expressed that Portugal will rescind its action.

ORPET HELD TO GRAND JURY WITHOUT BAIL

LAKE FOREST, Ill., Feb. 28.—William H. Orpet, charged with the murder of Marian Lambert, a Lake Forest high school student, waived preliminary hearing before a justice of the peace today. The case will be considered by the March grand jury. Orpet entered a plea of not guilty and was bound over without bail to the grand jury.

PLEDGES GIVEN IN LUSITANIA CASE GOOD, SAYS KAISER

Ambassador Bernstorff Presents Note Saying Germany Has No Intention of Revoking Them.

SEES NO CONFLICT IN ORDER

Nothing in Instruction to Sink Armed Ships Conflicts with Assurances to U. S.

UNARMED SHIPS IN NO PERIL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—In a note presented to Secretary Lansing today by Count Von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, Germany assures the United States that it has no intention of revoking the pledges given in the Lusitania case.

The note says Germany can conceive of no reason for changing or postponing the new instructions to its submarine commanders to treat as warships enemy merchant ships armed "defensively," and that special precautions have been taken to prevent ships that are not armed from being attacked.

Contents of the Note. The note at the outset reiterated the previous pledges which were given on September 1 and October 6 last year for the safety of unarmored liners, and then goes on to say the German government does not believe those assurances have been modified by the new memorandum.

During the negotiations over the Lusitania, it says no mention was made of armed merchantmen, and that the United States in one of its notes on the Lusitania mentioned unarmored merchantmen. Attention then is called to the assurances privately given, in which it is stated that liners will not be sunk without warning, provided they do not offer resistance. Attention is also called to the statement of the American government in its notice to port authorities that the presence of armament on board a merchant vessel (Continued on Page Two, Column Two.)

Sioux City Car Men Given Raise of Ten Per Cent

SIoux CITY, Ia., Feb. 28.—The Sioux City Service company which operates all the street car lines in this city, today announced a 10 per cent increase in the wages of its employees. It is said efforts have been made by leaders of the packing house strikers to induce the street car men to aid them by striking up traffic. The raise in pay affects 150 men and increases wages \$1 to \$1.25 a month. Street railway officials deny packing house strike figured in the advance.

Des Moines River Choked with Ice

OSKALOOSA, Ia., Feb. 28.—The Des Moines river, choked by an ice surge, rose a foot last night and today went above the high-water mark set in the big flood of 1905. Grave fears of a flood have been expressed. Governor Clark has sent an engineer to investigate the situation.

The Mahaska county supervisors with scores of other workers are in the flooded district, but have been powerless to alleviate the situation. Dynamite has been found ineffective in breaking up the huge gorge. As yet, the back waters have not affected this city, the gorge being above the city.

The Day's War News

THE GREAT BATTLE OF VERDUN, now entering its second week, is continuing with unabated fury, with the German armies driving hard at the French defenses along the lengthening line, which now runs far beyond the salient in which lies the fortress.

PARIS ASSERTS that with the pouring in of heavy reinforcements for General Joffre's armies the German advance has been checked, but Berlin claims a continuation of the forward march on the French stronghold.

ALONG THE MEUSE, north of Verdun, the Germans have been unable to make any rapid progress as in the initial stages of the battle, and even on the Woivre front, where the French at first fell back, they now appear to be offering resistance. The French defensive operations at places are taking on the nature of a counter offensive.

ACCORDING TO A STATEMENT by Aristide Briand, the French premier, the French, after the fourth day of the battle, brought up strong reinforcements at an unexpected moment, and the infantry, sweeping down upon the Germans, who already were suffering heavily from the effects of the French artillery fire, stopped them short and even drove them back. The premier declares the French have now regained the advantage.

THE TOTAL OF LIVES LOST in the sinking of the Peninsular and Oriental steamship Maloja by striking a mine off Dover may reach 151, dispatches today reporting that only 260 of the 411 passengers and crew on board are known to have been saved. Of the 119 passengers, fifty-five have not been definitely accounted for.

SINKING OF RUSSIAN steamer Per-shanang, at 1,647 tons, is estimated today, fifteen persons on board being saved.